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2008/02/14 :
CIA-RDP85T00875R0011001

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
28 March 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

PAKISTAN

(Situation as of 1200 EST)

1. The clandestine radio supposedly operated by Mujib's supporters in East Pakistan claims that a provisional government has been formed for Bangla Desh and is appealing to other countries to extend immediate recognition. A Major Zia Khan, identified yesterday as the head of the "liberation army," was designated temporary head of the new government. Although the radio claimed that Mujib was alive and present at "revolutionary headquarters," more conclusive evidence indicates that he was arrested the night of 25-26 March. Mujib's oldest son and a daughter were killed in firing at Mujib's residence that night. Radio Pakistan has denied reports that Mujib's supporters have taken control of Comilla, Jessore, and Chittagong, and that martial law administrator Tikka Khan was wounded on 27 March. The Pakistan Government in Islamabad continues to insist that the situation in East Pakistan is rapidly returning to normal, while the clandestine radio reports that fighting continues and seeks to rally Mujib's followers.

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2. US officials in Dacca report mounting evidence that the martial law authorities are conducting a virtual reign of terror in the city. The army appears to be seeking out and mercilessly eliminating leaders, associates, and supporters of Mujibur Rahman's Awami League, plus student leaders, university professors, and most of East Pakistan's elected members of the national constituent assembly.

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Meanwhile, with the support of the military, non-Bengali Muslims in Dacca are systematically attacking the quarters of the city inhabited by the poor and murdering Bengalis and Hindus.

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3. The curfew, which was to have been imposed at noon Dacca time on 28 March, was later lifted at 1700 Dacca time. There is a continuous flow of people out of the city, but the army has set up checkpoints on all roads leading out of Dacca to prevent the escape of well-known figures or anyone marked for elimination. An effort is underway by the military to locate and freeze all Awami League funds. The consul general reports that there was no resistance to the military in Dacca on 28 March.

4. The West Pakistani press has been very critical of BBC and VOA for replaying news reports originating with the clandestine "Voice of Bangla Desh" radio. Rumors are circulating in West Pakistan charging "involvement by outside powers" in the events in East Pakistan. On 27 March, the Government of Pakistan protested to the Indian high commissioner "deliberate and blatant Indian interference in Pakistan's internal affairs." Meanwhile, the press in West Pakistan has carried charges that the Indians have set up a clandestine radio on a ship at the mouth of the Hoogly River near Calcutta and have broadcast "concocted" stories about the situation in East Pakistan.

5. Indian Foreign Secretary Kaul told US officials in New Delhi on 27 March that the Government of India expected a large influx of refugees from East Pakistan and asked if the US and other countries could help in relief efforts. He expressed the hope that no country would intervene in the situation in East Pakistan.

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6. Pakistan's deputy chief of mission in Washington, a Bengali, told US officials on 27 March that Bengali personnel at Pakistani embassies may withdraw from foreign missions around the world and attempt to act as representatives of Bangla Desh. He said they would try to coordinate their moves as well as possible with one another.

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